

THE ILLINOIS FREE TRADER

AND LASALLE COUNTY COMMERCIAL ADVERTISER.

OUR COUNTRY—HER COMMERCE—AND HER FREE INSTITUTIONS.

VOLUME 11.

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and twenty-five cents if delayed until the end of
the year.

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the first insertion, and 25 cents for each sub-
sequent insertion. A liberal discount made to
those who advertise by the year.

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are paid, unless at the option of the editors.
To announce the name of any individual
as a candidate for office, the sum of one dollar
will be required to be paid in advance.

All communications, to ensure attention, must
be post paid.

JOB WORK

Of every description, executed in the neatest
manner, at the usual prices.

OTTAWA is the seat of justice of La Salle
county; is situated at the junction of the Fox river
with the Illinois, 200 miles by water, from Saint
Louis, and midway between Chicago and Peoria.

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From the Norwich Packet of 1793.

Elly on the Death of a Blacksmith.
With the nerves of a Sampson this son of the
By the anvil his livelihood got;—
With the skill of old Vulcan could temper an edge;
And struck—while his iron was hot.

By forging he lived, yet never was tried,
Or condemned by the laws of the land;
But still it is certain, and can't be denied,
He often was burnt in the hand.

With the sons of St. Crispin he knifed he claimed,
With the last he had nothing to do;
He handled no awl, and yet in his time
Made many an excellent shoe.

He blew up no coals of sedition, but still
His bellows was always in blast;
And I will acknowledge, (deny it who will,)—
That one rye, and but one, he possessed.

No actor was he, or concerned with the stage,
No audience to one him appeared;
Yet oft in his shop (like a crowd in a rage)
The voice of a rising was heard.

Though stealing of axes was part of his cares,
In thieving he never was found;
And though he was constantly leading on bars,
No vessel he ever ran aground.

Alas! and alack! and what more can I say
Of Vulcan's unfortunate son!
The priest and the sexton have borne him away,
And the sound of his hammer is done.

From the Warsaw Signal.

School Law of 1841.

Our readers are generally aware that
the legislature of this state, at its session
last winter, passed an act "making
provision for organizing and maintaining com-
mon schools" in this state, which act re-
peals the acts heretofore passed for that
purpose, and materially modifies our com-
mon school system.

It is of great importance that the people
be made acquainted with this law. Con-
cerning, as it does, their dearest interests
—the education of their children, and
consequently, the future happiness and
prosperity of the community—and regu-
lating, as it does, the management of a ve-
ry large school fund, which the munifi-
cence of the general government has plac-
ed at their disposal, we know of no sub-
ject which should be to us an object of so
much solicitude and care.

But few people have the means of be-
coming acquainted with the provisions of
this act. For the purpose, then, of call-
ing public attention to it, as well as to
place before our readers the substance of
its provisions, we have been at the un-
pleasant task of preparing as complete a
synopsis of it as our time and circum-
stances would permit.

This act was approved February 26,
1841, and was appointed to take effect on
the 1st day of July, 1841, and is now in
full force.

For the purpose of perspicuity, it is di-
vided into five different parts called di-
visions.

The first division—provides for the
"protection and preservation of the school
funds," and declares that they shall be
under the general superintendence of the
county commissioners' court. The said
court, as soon as may be after the passage
of this act, are to appoint three trustees in
each township, and to be called "trustees
of school lands," whose appointments
shall continue four years. It makes it
the duty of such trustees to appoint a
treasurer and prescribe his duties; and
also to receive any real estate or other
property, or money, which may be conveyed
to them for the use of schools. The treas-
urer so appointed is to give bond pay-
able to trustees in their corporate name, con-
ditioned to the faithful discharge of his
duties, and deposited with the school
commissioner. The trustees are to pay
over to the school commissioner all mon-
ey, &c., which may come into their

hands, and render an account of their do-
ings to the county commissioners' court.

Section 10th provides for the punish-
ment of trespass upon school lands—
which shall be by indictment and fine of
not less than three nor more than six
times the amount of injury, to go to the
use of the township injured.

Second division.—This division pro-
vides that on the 1st Monday of August
biennially a school commissioner shall be
elected, who shall execute a bond to the
people of the state of Illinois, with two
or more freeholders for security, to be ap-
proved by the county commissioners' court,
in a penalty of not less than \$12,000,
with such increase as the court may
direct. Vacancies in said office are to be
filled up by the county commissioners
until the election and qualification of an-
other person, provided, when a vacancy
occurs within one year from the time of a
regular election, the person so appointed
shall continue in office until the said elec-
tion. The said commissioner shall have
superintendence of the funds of the town-
ships—shall sell school lands as provided
by law—loan township funds—apply the
interest to the use of schools—collect all
debts in favor of the respective town-
ships, and attend to the settlement of the
accounts of the trustees.

The said commissioner shall also be
subject to removal by the county com-
missioners' court, for misapplication of funds,
failure to execute bonds, or other viola-
tions of law. "The county commissioners'
court may at any time, whenever they
consider his bond insufficient, require said
commissioner to execute a new bond, in
such sum as they shall deem sufficient.

Said commissioner shall provide books
and keep a full and complete record of all
his official transactions, said books to be
paid for out of the county treasury.

Whenever two thirds of the white male
inhabitants of any township, over twenty-
one years of age, sign a petition, desiring
the sale of school lands of the township,
and the commissioner shall be satisfied of
that fact from the affidavits of reputable
citizens of the township, he shall proceed
to sell the land in question, by notifying
the trustees thereof—who shall subdivide
the tract into such form and size as will
produce the largest amount of money—
assess a value upon each of said lots—and
furnish said commissioner with a list of
the same certified. The terms of selling
shall be to the highest bidder in cash—
allowing each purchaser to borrow the
amount of his bid for any period not less
than one, nor more than five years, upon
interest and security as in case of money
loaned.—The place of selling shall be at
the court house—the commissioner having
previously published the same four weeks
in a newspaper in the county, if any there
be, and posted notices in six public places
forty days previous to the sale thereof.
All land not sold at such public sale,
may be sold at private sale, at any time
thereafter, at valuation, upon the terms at
which they were offered at public sale.

At each regular session of the county
commissioners' court, the school commis-
sioner is required to make a report, and
shall also transmit to the auditor of pub-
lic accounts, at the seat of government, a
full and exact transcript from his sale
book.

The third division—provides for the
loaning of the school fund.

Fourth division.—Any number of in-
habitants of a township may purchase not
exceeding ten acres of land, convey the
same to the trustees of school lands, erect
thereon a school house, and the same
may be held in perpetuity, for the uses
and purposes intended.

Within ten days after the organization
of any school, the employers of the per-
son teaching the same shall meet at the
school room and appoint three of their
number trustees of the school, and may
vest said trustees with such powers as
they may think necessary in the govern-
ment of the school, and if said school con-
tinue more than one year, trustees are
to be elected in like manner, at the com-
mencement of each succeeding year. Said
trustees shall have general supervision of
the school, and shall have special regard
to the keeping of the schedule by the
teacher.

Teachers are to keep schedules of the
names of all scholars attending their
schools—and, if residing in different
townships, different schedules are to be
kept—and the absence of a scholar shall
be noted by the letter A, and the presence
by the letter P.

Teachers shall certify to the correct-
ness of the schedules, and the trustees
shall append a certificate, stating that they
are trustees—that they have attended to
their duties—that they have examined
said schedules, and believe them to be
correct—and the amount due the teacher.

Funds are to be paid out half yearly,
on the second Monday in January and
July, and the schedules should be made to

include the six months previous to the
last days of December and June. Sched-
ules of schools in townships not incor-
porated must be presented to the commis-
sioner on or before the first Monday in
January and July of each year, when he
shall proceed to make an apportionment
for distribution.

Fifth division.—Townships may be-
come incorporated whenever a majority
of the inhabitants thereof so declare at an
election to be held for that purpose. The
time and place of said election to be de-
termined by the trustees of school lands,
who shall advertise the same at least 20
days before the day appointed for said
election. If the election result in favor of
incorporating, the inhabitants then elect
five trustees to superintend the business
and the affairs of the township.

These trustees are to be known by the
name of "trustees of schools," shall be a
body politic and corporate, and shall con-
tinue in office for a term of two years.—
The trustees have power to district the
township, purchase libraries, provide for
the keeping of the funds, direct the mode
of conducting the schools, &c.

These trustees, as well as the school
trustees in unincorporated townships, are
made a board of examiners, and required
to examine teachers and certify to their
qualifications; and no teacher shall draw
money from the school fund, who has not
previously obtained a certificate of qualifi-
cation from the trustees.

From the Ladies Companion.

A Mother's Last Prayer.

BY ANN SUTHERLAND.

"First our flowers die—and then
Our hopes, and then our tears—and when
These are dead, the debt is due,
Dust claims dust—and we die too."

I was very young, scarcely beyond the
verge of infancy, the last and most help-
less of three little girls who were gather-
ed around my poor mother's death-bed.
When I look on the chain of my varied
existence—a trail of gold and iron and
woven so strongly together—the remem-
brance of that young being who perished
so early and so gently from the bosom of
her family, forms the first sad link which
ever gives forth a thrill of funeral music
when my heart turns to it—music which
becomes more deep-toned and solemn as
that chain is strengthened by thought,
and bound together by the events of suc-
cessive years. The first human being
that I can remember was my invalid
mother, moving languidly about her home,
with a paleness of disease sitting on her
beautiful features, and a deep crimson
spot burning with painful brightness in
either cheek. I remember that her step
became unsteady, and her voice fainter
and more gentle, day by day, till at last,
she sunk to her bed, and we were called
upon to witness her spirit go forth to the
presence of Jehovah. They took me to
her couch, and told me to look upon my
mother before she died. Their words
had no meaning to me then, but the
whisper in which they were spoken thrill-
ed painfully through my infant heart, and
I felt that something very terrible was
about to happen. Pale, troubled faces
were around that death-pillow—stern
men, with sad heavy eyes—women over-
whelmed with tears and sympathy, and
children that huddled together shuddering
and weeping, they knew not wherefore.
Filled with wonder and awe, I crept to
my mother, and burying my brow in the
mass of rich brown hair that floated over
her pillow heavy with the damp of death,
but still lustrous in spite of disease, I
trembled and sobbed without knowing
why, save that all around me was full of
grief and lamentation. She murmured,
and placed her pale hand on my head.
My little heart swelled, but I lay motion-
less and filled with awe. Her lips moved,
and a voice tremulous and very low,
came faintly over them.—"Those words,
broken and sweet as they were, left the
first dear impression that ever remained
on my memory—"Lead her not into
temptation, but deliver her from evil."
This was my mother's last prayer! in
that imperfect sentence her gentle voice
went out forever. Young as I was, that
prayer had entered my heart, with solemn
strength. I raised my head from its
beautiful resting place, and gazed awes-
tricken upon the face of my mother.
Oh, how an hour had changed it! The
crimson flush was quenched on her
cheeks, a moisture lay upon her forehead,
and the gay, mysterious shadows of death
were stealing over each thin feature, yet
her lips still moved, and her deep blue
eyes were bent on me, surcharged with
spiritual brightness, as if they would have
left one of their vivid, unearthly rays, as
the seal of her death-bed covenant.
Slowly as the sunbeams fade at nightfall
from the leaves of a flower, went out the
star-like fire of those eyes: a mist came
over them, softly as the dew of night

fall upon that flower, and she was dead.
Even then, I knew not the meaning of
the solemn change I had witnessed, but
when they bore me forth, from my moth-
er's death-bed, my heart was filled with
fear and misgiving.

All were overwhelmed with the weight
of their own sorrow, and I was permitted
to wander around my desolated home un-
checked and forgotten. I stood wonder-
ing by as they shrouded my mother, and
smoothed the long hair over her pale fore-
head. Silently I watched them spread
the winding sheet, and fold those small
pale hands over her bosom, but when
they closed the blinds, and went forth,
my little heart swelled with a sense of
unkindness in shutting out the sunshine,
and the sweet summer air which had so
often called a smile to her pale lips, when
it came on her bed, fragrant from the
rose-thickets and the white clover-field,
which lay beneath the windows they had
so cruelly darkened. The gloom of that
death-chamber made me very sorrowful
but I went to the bed, turned down the
linen, and laid my hand caressingly on
the pale face which lay so white and
motionless in the dim light. It was cold
as ice. I drew back affrighted, and start-
ling from the room, sat down alone,
wondering and full of dread.

They buried her beneath a lofty tree
on the high bank of a river. A water-
fall raises its eternal anthem near by, and
the sunset flings its last golden shadows
among the long grass that shelters her.
I remember it all—the grave with its
newly broken sod—the coffin placed on
the brink. The clergyman, with his
black surplice sweeping the earth, and
the concourse of neighbors gathered round
that grave, each lifting his hat reverently
as the solemn hymn swelled on the air,
answered by the lofty anthem surging up
from the waterfall, and the breeze rustling
through the dense boughs of that gloomy
tree. Then came the grating of the coffin
as it was lowered into its narrow bed,
the dull heavy sound of falling earth, and
those most solemn words of "dust to
dust, and ashes to ashes." With mourn-
ful distinctness were all these things im-
pressed on my young mind, but my moth-
er's last prayer is written more forcibly
than all in characters that but deepen with
maturity. It has lingered about my heart
a blessing and a safeguard, pervading it
with a music that cannot die. Many
times, when the heedlessness of youth
would have led me into error, has that
sweet voice, now hushed forever, inter-
mingled with my thoughts, and like the
rosy link of a fairy chain drawn me from
my purpose. Oft, when my brow has
been wreathed with flowers for the festi-
val, when my cheek has been flushed,
and my eyes have sparkled with anticipa-
tory pleasure, have I caught the reflection
of those eyes in the mirror, and the
thought of the look which rested upon
me when mother died—that broken appli-
cation to Heaven has come back to my
memory, the clustering roses have been
torn from my head: sad and gentle mem-
ories have drank the unnatural glow
from my cheeks, and my thoughts have
been carried back to my lost parent, and
from her up to the Heaven she inhabits.
The festival and all its attractions, have
lost in gentle reflections, and I have been
"delivered from temptation."—Again,
when the sparkling wine-cup has almost
bathed my lips, and merriment, smiles
and music, has the last and prayer of
mother seemed to mingle with its ruly
contents, and I have put away the goblet,
that "I might not be led into tempta-
tion." When my hand has rested in
that of the disconsolate, and trembled to
the touch of him who says in his heart
there is no God, as that voice seemed to
flow with his living accents, I have lis-
tened to it, and fled so from the serpent
of my native forest.

Again and again, when the throbbings
of ambition have almost filled my soul,
and the prizes of my fellow men have
become a precious incense, the still small
voice of my mother's prayer has trembled
over each heart string, and kindled in me
more healthy music. In infancy, youth
and womanhood, that prayer has been to
me a holy remembrance—a sweet
thought, full of melody not the less beau-
tiful that there is sadness in it.

The Right of Instruction.

"Look hea, Pompey," said a negro,
yesterday, to a brother darkey, both of
whom are working at the "burnt district."
—"Look hea, Pompey: what for you no
put more water in dat mortar?"
—"Jus 'cause as how I don't like to do
it, nigger—dat's all."
—"Well, I tell you wot it is; I instruct
you to do it—dat's all."
—"No, it ain't nuff, nigger, nigger. I'm
posed to do doctrine ob 'structions. I
ain't no Warginny 'structionist, no how;
dis child's a creole nigger, and so be his
children's fore em."—N. O. Picayune.

There are many Misses we often meet
with, whose acquaintance is not particu-
larly desirable. Indeed, their room is bet-
ter than their company.

We hope our fair readers will not Miss-
Apprehend us, as we mean nothing degra-
tory to their reputation. It is an old
saying, a Miss is as good as a mile. That
is one of Misses people do not like to en-
counter, as it prevents them from obtain-
ing the object desired.

Miss Represent is a personage who
most provokingly falsifies what you as-
sert. She injures your character, injures
your business, and puts words into your
mouth which you never uttered. She is
a Miss you always wish out of your
way.

Miss Place never has any local habita-
tion. She is never at home. She is any
where but where she ought to be. She
deranges your affairs. She occupies your
time unnecessarily in putting to rights
what she has disarranged. She is un-
mindful of the apothegm of the poet, that
"order is heaven's first law." She should
never be admitted into your society.

Miss Reckon is ever committing errors
in all projects, plans, and pelf. Her ac-
counts are always wrong. There are
mistakes in the casting or the footing up.
Such Misses are more plague than profit.

Miss Hop is always meeting with some
accident. She is one of the most unfor-
tunate beings in existence. She is not
"born to good luck." Something or other
is continually occurring to disappoint her
hopes and expectations. If you cultivate
her acquaintance, and associate with her,
you are sure to fail in your most cher-
ished projects and anticipated successes.
Avoid her if possible.

Miss Give bestows her charities upon
just the persons she ought not to, and
when she has made up her mind to do a
noble and valiant deed, she has not the
fortitude to accomplish it, but her heart
fails her.—She is not to be depended
upon.

Miss Fortune is a personage well
known, and one whom every body avoids,
if possible. She causes unhappiness to
individuals, distresses to families, and of-
ten intrudes herself into your company
when you least expect it, and seldom or
never "comes singly," but brings compa-
ny with her, more than you have "clairs
fort," and of course nobody wishes to see
her or any of her acquaintances.

Miss Trust is a suspicious character.
She ever imagines you intend to cheat
her, or to impose upon her in some way
or other. She is unwilling to trust you
she thinks you never intend to repay it.
Have nothing to do with her; don't trust
her.

Miss Construction is rather a well
meaning personage, but is rather thick
headed. She does not always compre-
hend your meanings. She is on the whole,
rather well disposed, but is such a charac-
ter as you would not wish to have in your
company.

Miss Rule is not a very good presiding
officer. Somehow or other affairs never
go on smoothly under her management.
There is apt to be much confusion; the
laws are not so well obeyed as they ought
to be, and the wheels of government never
roll on smoothly under her guidance.

Miss Chief is the ringleader of troubles
and vexations; she is never satisfied un-
less she can be making disturbance, and
meddling, and perplexing, and vexing
every one within her reach. As she is the
"chiefest of sinners," she is most reluc-
tantly to be avoided, her company shun-
ned and her example discarded.—Boston
Tribune.

A Yankee Epitaph.

Not long since, but before Judge Cow-
en decided that the people must be tried
in this country for crimes committed
there happened to be one of the prince-
pal lords in Montreal, a pompous dis-
cussion among a quarrel of British offi-
cers, upon the subject of the imprison-
ment of McLeod. And after turning the
subject over and over, and bringing to
bear upon it all light, evidence and sound
reasoning that the wisest demanded,
the gallant officers, and other good and loyal
subjects, concluded it expedient and right
to call out a regiment of her Britannic Ma-
jesty's soldiers, march down to New
York, liberate the insulted prisoner, Mc-
Leod, and bear him in triumph to his
home, to become the dignity of a great
and powerful nation as England.

"Gentlemen," and in a moment all
eyes were turned to a remote corner of
the room, where sat, before unobserved,
a very comfortable looking stranger, in
whom, however, at a glance could be dis-
covered the true Yankee; for indeed he
stood, (as we say,) or rather leaned six
feet and a half—a perfect giant and there
he sat, seeming only to admire the beauty
of the ascending volumes of smoke drawn

from the end of his huge cigar, the like
of which, together with whips and loco
foco matches, he had for years peddled
from Quebec to New Orleans. "Gentle-
men," he said, "I hope before you un-
dertake to carry your deliberations into
effect, that you will use a little consid-
eration. What talk about taking McLeod
out of prison with a regiment of soldiers?
Why, gentlemen, you talk like children.

"Why, all the forces you can drum up
between here and so far north that the
thermometer won't rise at all, can't march
down to the city of Albany and back
again, no way you can contrive it. Now
I am a little, small, delicate specimen of
Vermont, and would like to tell you what
the Vermonters have done for your case.
They have made a proposition, through
their legislature, to the general govern-
ment, that they will whip out, clean and
smooth, the Canadas, New Brunswick
and Nova Scotia, for the sum of sixty-
five dollars.

"The general government approved of
the plan, but thought the price too high.
The legislature reconsidered the vote and
made a second proposition, and agreed to
do the work for thirty-six dollars and
fifty cents. This the general govern-
ment accepted; and now the only remain-
ing question to be settled is, who finds
the ammunition. As soon as that is set-
tled we shall be over here.

"The boys are now heading this way,
and it is all the government can do to
hold on to their coat skirts to keep them
off from you; and mark my word, in
three days from the time the government
lets go, there won't be British govern-
ment enough left for a by-word. But,
gentlemen, if you persist in going for
McLeod, arrange your affairs for a long
absence, and for heaven's sake, and more
particularly for your own, don't go by
the way of Plattsburgh!"

The conclusion of the matter was, that
if Vermont had actually got started, and
if the Yankee then with them was, as he
said, but a small, delicate specimen of
what was to come, they had better aban-
don at once the idea of sending for Mc-
Leod, and arrange their affairs at home
for such unwelcome visitors.—(Essex
County Republican.)

Epitaph.

Here lies a lawyer, and an honest man;
Heaven works a wonder for us now and then.

From the Crescent City.

A Love Letter.

The following precious billetdoux was
picked up in Canal street last evening.
It was without address, and lest its con-
tents should be lost to the backward
swain for whom it was intended, we take
the liberty of publishing it:

"My dear, sweet, Ducky!—I am
so happy to hear from you so often—it
affords me such pleasure. You always
was so dear to me and I hope will soon
be dearer.

You know I never hinted nothing
about marriage and I never mean to—
take your own time for that. I shall al-
ways remember the old saying, procreati-
on is the thief of time, but mother
said nothing should be done in a hurry
but with love.

The fondest wish of my heart is that
we may soon become one. Do you ever
read Franklin's Experiments—his remarks
concerning marriage is delightful. Our
hopes be sea ought to assemble one
another in every respect; they ought to
be heterogeneities so that our union may
mix as well as unit in—not iron and
water, but like tea and sugar.

Truly I can feel for the moral Watts,
when he says:—

"The rules is not, the effects show,
Changes sweet and as are you."

Mother sez matrimony is better to
think on than the reality—in the belief it
is not.

I remain'd dear to marriage, your own
sweet daughter—MARY ANN.

N. B. I had a kuzin married last
month who sez there ain't no true enjoy-
ment but in the marriage state.

Your sweetest day,

MARY ANN.

P. S. I hope you will let me know
what you mean to do, as there's some-
body else wants to marry me every day,
and I shall be quite uneasy till I hear.

Your loving sweet

MARY ANN.

Snapshots Dining.—"Well, Sambo,
have you got a good place?" "Oh,
yes, tank ye missus, lib berry fine now!"
"What did you have for breakfast this
morning?" "Why I've see, missus bite
tree eggs for herself, and gib me de
brof." (broth.)

An Irishman who had blistered his
fingers by endeavoring to draw on a pair
of new boots, exclaimed, "Faith, I believe
I shall never get them on until I wear
them a day or two."